



HR1350

LRB099 22226 GRL 49595 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the congregation of St.
4 Constance Church in Chicago on the occasion of the church's
5 100th anniversary in 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, St. Constance Church was organized in 1916 at the
7 request of 90 Polish families who belonged to Our Lady of
8 Victory Church; members of the Polonia Club of Our Lady of
9 Victory Roman Catholic Parish asked Auxiliary Bishop Paul P.
10 Rhode to help them in their efforts to obtain a parish of their
11 own; and

12 WHEREAS, On July 16, 1916, Archbishop George W. Mundelein
13 appointed Rev. Alex Knitter, a former assistant at St. Adalbert
14 Church, to organize the new national parish in the district
15 known as Colonial Gardens, part of the larger Jefferson Park
16 community; Father Knitter celebrated the first Mass in the home
17 of Valentine Wachowski at Lawrence Avenue and Long Avenue; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 20, 1916, a simple frame church at
19 Lawrence Avenue and Central Avenue, in the vicinity of the
20 Dyniewicz Park subdivision, was rededicated as St. Constance
21 Church; late in 1916, property bounded by Strong Street,
22 Ainslie Street, Marmora Avenue, and Menard Avenue was selected

1 as the site of the new Polish parish; work later commenced on a
2 three-story church and school building at 5809 West Strong
3 Street, which was dedicated on October 7, 1917 by Archbishop
4 Mundelein; the School Sisters of Notre Dame were invited by
5 Father Knitter to staff the parish school; and

6 WHEREAS, St. Constance's modern church, designed by A.J.
7 Del Bianco and Richard Donatoni, was completed in 1970; the
8 bell tower was installed in 1980 and the wooden altar was
9 installed by Jerzy Kenar in 1981; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1974, the Maximilian Kolbe School of Polish
11 Language was founded at St. Constance Church; the school has
12 continued its ministry of instructing young Chicagoans in the
13 Polish language into the present day; and

14 WHEREAS, St. Constance Church remains a strong cultural
15 center for the Polish diaspora in Chicago and much of the
16 parish membership is Polish; confessions are still heard in
17 Polish and liturgies held each Sunday are celebrated in both
18 Polish and English; as the neighborhood has grown increasingly
19 diverse, families of Italian, Irish, German, Filipino, and
20 Latin American descent have joined this community of faith; and

21 WHEREAS, The congregation of St. Constance Church serve as
22 models of hard work, integrity, and dedication for the people

1 of the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 congratulate the congregation of St. Constance Church on the
5 occasion of the church's 100th anniversary and wish them
6 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to St. Constance Church as a symbol of our esteem and
10 respect.